The Long Legend

Learning objectives

• Read a text, then write a summary and read it aloud.
• Explain how scenes fit together to provide smooth transitions and how they form the fundamental structure of specific genres such as a legend.
• Develop character-analyzing skills.
• Compare and contrast the themes, genres, topics, and the pattern of events in stories, myths, and traditional literature.
• Demonstrate an understanding of traditional storytelling.
• Distinguish between formal and informal language when speaking or writing.
• Write a narrative to develop a fantasy experience or event.

Setting the scene

• Present a legend to the students – read it aloud and determine what it’s about.
• Discuss the key details of the legend with the students.
• Talk about and identify the characteristics of the legend genre.
• What is the meaning of authentic? What is fiction?
• What does it mean to have a historical content and viewpoint?

Building the story

Ask the students to work in teams. Have them brainstorm ideas and then create a storyboard for a three- or five-scene story. Start with “Back in ancient . . .”

Reflecting

These suggestions are designed to spark and encourage reflection:

• How are you identifying the characteristics of each genre, and what are they?
• What would your single favorite scene be? What does that scene tell us?
• What would come before and after your favorite scene?
• Point out the authentic, fictitious, and historical aspects of the legend.
Sharing and documenting
Ask the students to use the characteristics of the legend genre and focus specifically on character analysis when writing their summaries.

Extending
• Use the StoryVisualizer software to make a presentation of the Long Legend, including the historical aspects. Invite other classes to your presentation.

• Legends are based on an element of truth, typically historical fact. Choose one legend and research the historical truth behind the mythical story. Make a pamphlet, a news board, or a documentary about it.

• Make a different version of The Long Legend with an unexpected twist. Work in groups and take turns building scenes for the story without knowing its conclusion.

• Adapt a favorite legend to a screenplay. Include detailed dialogue and specific stage direction. Act this legend out together with your team.